

OIG INVESTIGATIVE INFORMATION

OIG investigations seek out facts related to allegations of wrongdoing. OIG investigations may address administrative, civil, and criminal violations of laws, regulations, and policies. The subject of an OIG investigation can be any agency employee, an FEC contractor, consultant, or a person or entity involved in alleged wrongdoing affecting FEC programs and operations.

As discussed in OIG Hotline Information, all hotline complaints are evaluated to determine if they warrant an investigation. If an investigation is opened, the hotline complaint is closed and merged into the investigative file. OIG investigations involve a detailed examination or inquiry into issues brought to our attention by various sources, and may include interviews of relevant witnesses and subjects, document reviews, and computer forensic examinations. At the conclusion of an OIG investigation, the OIG prepares a report that sets forth the allegations and an objective description of the facts developed during the investigation.

During this reporting period no new investigations were opened, three investigations were closed, and five investigations remain open. The closed investigations include:

Ethics Review of Commissioner

The OIG investigated whether a Commissioner or the Commissioner's staff violated ethical standards or FEC policies. The investigation revealed the Commissioner released two statements on February 10 and 17, 2017, requesting President Donald Trump to release information regarding his allegations of voter fraud. The OIG investigation was based on the ethical standards outlined in federal regulations 5 C.F.R. Part 2635. Based interviews, research, and information obtained by the OIG, the OIG found no evidence of

ethical misconduct by the Commissioner or the Commissioner's staff.

Parking Subsidy Misuse

The OIG opened an investigation regarding parking subsidy misuse. The FEC leased parking spaces from LAZ parking at a cost of \$80,172 per year in order to provide subsidized parking permits to FEC's Senior Leaders and certain staff depending on need. The review period of the investigation was from October 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. The OIG investigation revealed FEC did not conduct a needs assessment for subsidized parking as required by the Government Accountability Office. Additionally, the FEC's parking subsidy exceeded the allowable Internal Revenue Service (IRS) 2016 monthly limit of \$255 by \$31.90 per person. The investigation revealed FEC did not report the amount over the limit as wages to the parking beneficiaries, resulting in a total of \$4,584 that was not reported to the IRS in salaries. FEC parking records also revealed one employee used the union subsidized parking pass without authority, resulting in the employee receiving \$2,495 of unauthorized free parking. In addition, the OIG found that four employees received both temporary parking passes and transit benefits in violation of FEC Directive 54, resulting in the excess expenditure of \$3,005 of transit benefits. The report was provided to the Commission and agency management.

Visa Gift Card Purchases and Distributions

The OIG investigated whether there was misuse regarding the purchase and distribution of Visa gift cards as on-the spot rewards for FEC employees. The OIG found no criminal violations regarding the distribution and use of Visa gift